

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 /081 W
-----101553Z 102571 /41

R 100740Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9716
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN NO. 2

REF: JAKARTA 2724, SURABAYA 099 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTINUED THROUGH SECOND WEEK IN
GENERALLY QUIET MANNER. MORE AND MORE POSTERS APPEARED,
CAUSING SOME MINOR DISPUTES. NO NEW OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE
WERE REPORTED, BUT DISCUSSION OF FEBRUARY EAST JAVA SHOOTINGS
CONTINUED AND PRESS HAS BEEN TOLD TO REFRAIN FROM INFLAMMATORY
REPORTING. END SUMMARY.

1. SECOND WEEK OF GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNING FEATURED
SOME INCREASE IN NUMBER OF PARTY RALLIES, SPEECHES, AND
PARADES. FIRST TV SPEECH BY PDI MARCH 4 STRESSED THEMES OF
DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE NEEDS
OF THE COMMON PEOPLE. PPP SECOND TV SPEECH FOCUSED ON NEED
FOR SPIRITUAL AS WELL AS MATERIAL WELFARE, AND EFFORTS TO
BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR. NEWSPAPER MERDEKA HAS
BEGUN TO SUPPORT PDI BY GIVING COVERAGE TO ITS CAMPAIGN
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ACTIVITIES.

2. PARTY POSTERS CONTINUED TO PROLIFERATE. TRAVELLERS
REPORT WEST AND CENTRAL JAVA HEAVILY COVERED BY GOLKAR
POSTERS, WITH EAST JAVA DISPLAYING NUMEROUS PPP SIGNS AS
WELL AS GOLKAR. PDI STILL TRAILS IN GRAPHICS COMPETITION.
SENSITIVITY OF MUSLIMS TO DEFACING OR COVERING KA'BAH SYMBOL

OF PPP HAS CAUSED SOME TENSION, AND INTERIOR MINISTER AMIR-MACHMUD ANNOUNCED MARCH 7 THAT PARTY SYMBOLS MUST NOT BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH RELIGION.

3. LATE FEBRUARY SHOOTING INCIDENTS IN EAST JAVA REMAINED AN ISSUE. DEPUTY PPP CHAIRMAN NUDDIN LUBIS SAID MARCH 4 THAT IF SHOOTINGS ARE CONTINUED, PPP WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER STOPPING ITS CAMPAIGN IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY OF ITS PEOPLE. ADMIRAL SUDOMO DENIED REPORTS OF SHOOTINGS WERE ACCURATE, AND IN FORMAL LETTERS WARNED PPP AND NEWSPAPER WHICH CARRIED REPORTS (PELITA) NOT TO SPREAD SUCH REPORTS AGAIN, SINCE THEY WERE PROVOCATIVE AND DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO SUDOMO, SITUBONDON SHOOTING WAS CAUSED ACCIDENTALLY BY BICYCLIST BUMPING INTO SECURITY AGENT, AND NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. AMIRMACHMUD COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE BLUFFED BY THREATS OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE IN ANY CASE. PPP LEADERS PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE SITUBONDON INCIDENT ON THEIR OWN AND SAID CASE MIGHT BE TAKEN TO COURT.

4. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, PPP HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL FIELD CANDIDATES IN FOUR OF 12 SOUTH SULAWESI REGENCIES PREVIOUSLY DECLARED "PARTY FREE." MAN IN EAST JAVA WAS SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN PRISON FOR TEARING DOWN GOLKAR POSTER AND REPLACING IT WITH POSTER OF ANOTHER PARTY. ANOTHER MAN (IN MADURA) SHOT HIS WIFE FOR REFUSING TO JOIN THE PPP. IN WEST JAVA, TWO PERSONS WERE DETAINED FOR WRITING "GOLKAR IS PKI" ON GOLKAR POSTERS AND "THE PPP IS A HOLY WAR COMMAND" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON PPP POSTERS. JAKARTA GOVERNOR ALI SADIKIN HAS ORDERED ALL MAYORS, DISTRICT CHIEFS AND VILLAGE CHIEFS IN JAKARTA NOT TO TAKE PART IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN THE INTEREST OF ANY GROUP. FORMER MASJUMI LEADER MOHAMMED NATSIR ANNOUNCED HE WILL VOTE FOR PPP EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT A PARTY MEMBER, BUT THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO VOTE AT ALL SHOULD NOT HAVE TO DO SO. PPP GENERAL CHAIRMAN MINTAREDJA STATED THAT IN INTERESTS OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE ATHEISM, COMMUNISM, AND MISLEADING MYSTICAL BELIEFS SHOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM INDONESIA. PDI HAS PUBLICLY APPEALED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NOT TO SHOW FAVORITISM TO ANY ELECTION PARTICIPANTS. MFA SPOKESMAN SAID FOREIGN DIPLOMATS MAY OBSERVE ELECTION ACTIVITY DOWN TO REGENCY LEVEL.

5. COMMENT: CAMPAIGN TEMPO IS BEGINNING TO INCREASE, WITH EAST JAVA AN OBVIOUS KEY AREA FOR BOTH GOLKAR AND PPP. RELIGIOUS SENSITIVITIES TO TREATMENT OF PPP'S KA'BAH SYMBOL SEEM DESTINED TO PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS AND OTHER HOTLY CONTESTED PROVINCES, BUT ADMIRAL SUDOMO'S WARNINGS

TO PARTY AND PRESS WILL PROBABLY KEEP MANY INCIDENTS FROM
BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770374/aaaacncr.tel
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